Prevention of benami transactions

5436. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to take suitable steps to prevent benami transactions and illegal and unaccounted transfer of property/ realestate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps teken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Parliament had enacted the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988. However, certain legal difficulties have been noticed in its implementation.

(c) To remove difficulties in the implementation of the above Act, major amendments are needed which are being examined by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) in consultation with the other Ministries/Departments concerned.

Lower productivity of Indian Ports

5437. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though India has a very long coast line, there are only 11 major ports in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these ports handle 90 per cent of all imports and exports;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian ports continue to show lower productivity in comparison to other ports in the region; and

(d) if so, what are the Government plans to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the Major Ports together handle about 85 per cent of the total sea-borne export and import cargo.

(c) and (d) The productivity of a port depends on a number of factors, including location of the port and depth of waters/size of vessel calling at the